

Stormwater Management

Background

Stormwater is defined as waters consisting of rainfall runoff, including snow or ice melt during a rain event. When stormwater flows over impervious surfaces, it can pick up pollutants prior to entering the storm sewer system that are discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) regulates municipal stormwater runoff under the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4 General Permit) and requires municipalities to develop a Stormwater Management Plan.

What the City is doing

Below are links to the City's Stormwater Management efforts:

- City of Hartford Stormwater Management Plan
<https://www.hartfordct.gov/files/assets/public/public-works/public-works-documents/engineering/storm-water-management-plan/2017-hartford-stormwater-management-plan-ms4.pdf>
- City of Hartford Stormwater Management Plan 2020 Annual Report
<https://www.hartfordct.gov/files/assets/public/public-works/public-works-documents/engineering/draft-2020-annual-report/hartford.notice-review-for-2020-annual-report.pdf>
- City of Hartford Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program Fact Sheet
<https://www.hartfordct.gov/files/assets/public/public-works/public-works-documents/engineering/illicit-discharge-fact-sheet/illicit-discharge-fact-sheet.pdf>
- Green Infrastructure Handbook, Best Management Practices in Hartford, Connecticut
<https://circa.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1618/2018/09/Green-Infrastructure-Handbook.pdf>

What you can do

Below are links to tips on small preventative measures residents can take to reduce the following pollutants in stormwater runoff:

- Pet Waste contains bacteria that makes our waterways unsafe for drinking, swimming and other recreational activities:
 - CT DEEP Pet Waste Website at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/P2/Individual/Its-Greening-Cats-and-Dogs>
 - Animal Waste and Water Quality Fact Sheet:
<http://media.ctseagrant.uconn.edu/publications/coastalres/waterquality/cwfact6.pdf>
 - Clean Water Campaign Pet Waste Poster:
https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/cwc_petwaste_poster.pdf
- Fertilizer, if over applied or applied just before a rainstorm, gets into our waterways and promotes algae to grow and decay, using up oxygen fish need to survive:
 - Minimizing Pollution and Maximizing the Efficiency of Fertilizer
<https://nemo.uconn.edu/ms4/pubs/NEMOturfmanagement.pdf>
 - UCONN Soil Lab Soil Test Request Form & Instructions
<https://nemo.uconn.edu/publications/MS4/UConnSoilTest.pdf>

- Inflow and infiltration happen when stormwater and groundwater end up in the sanitary sewer from improper plumbing connections, cracked sewer pipes, or outdated materials or systems. The sanitary sewer system becomes overwhelmed during storms causing backups and overflows:
 - Hartford Climate Stewardship Initiative Retain the Rain Program
www.hartfordct.gov/sustainability (choose the “Retain the Rain tab”)
 - The MDC Backwater Valve Program Information
<https://themdc.org/utility-services/backwater-valve-program/>

Other Resources:

- CT DEEP Municipal Stormwater
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Municipal-Stormwater>
- UCONN CLEAR Connecticut MS4 Guide Public Education and Outreach
<https://nemo.uconn.edu/ms4/tasks/public-education.htm>
- Long Island Sound Study: Step by Step, A citizen’s guide to curbing polluted Runoff
http://longislandsoundstudy.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/liss_runoff.pdf
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency NPDES Stormwater Program
<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>